

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NRHP- 11/22/00
VLR- 9/13/00

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

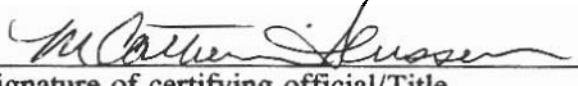
historic name Calfee Athletic Field
other names/site number Calfee Park; Pulaski Athletic Field; VDHR file no. 1254102

2. Location

street & number Washington and Pierce avenues, S.E. N/A not for publication
city or town Pulaski N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Pulaski code 155 zip code 24301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 10/3/2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> See continuation sheet.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> See continuation sheet.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> removed from the National Register.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> other (explain): <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register0**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
RECREATION & CULTURE	sports facility
LANDSCAPE	parking lot

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
RECREATION & CULTURE	sports facility
LANDSCAPE	parking lot

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Sandstone
walls	Sandstone
roof	Metal
other	Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Calfee Athletic Field

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Period of Significance

1935-1950

Significant Dates

1935

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Millirons, Edgar Hampton

Virginia Block Company

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** approximately 15 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	519830	4099200	3	17	520020 4098960
2	17	520070	4099180	4	17	519820 4098960

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>April 7, 2000</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>Town of Pulaski. Contact: J. David Hart, Parks and Recreation Director</u>		
street & number	<u>PO Box 660</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 994-8696</u>
city or town	<u>Pulaski</u>	state <u>VA</u>	zip code <u>24301</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Calfee Athletic Field occupies a natural amphitheater on the northern flanks of Draper Mountain overlooking the Town of Pulaski in Pulaski County, Virginia. The ball park is bounded on its north side by Fifth Street SE, on its east side by Pierce Avenue, on its west side by Floyd Avenue, and on its south side by noncontributing modern seating and service buildings and a large parking lot. The level surface of the field was created with fill in the 1930s and lies over a buried stream, a tributary of Peak Creek and the New River, which is channeled through a stone-lined tunnel. Lining the residential streets that border the field are one-story houses of frame and brick construction dating primarily to the first half of the twentieth century. An arm of the state and nationally designated Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District extends to within one residential lot of the field's northeast corner along Pierce Avenue. The nominated part of the ball park occupies approximately fifteen acres. The park is popularly known as Calfee Park, and it was originally known as the Pulaski Athletic Field until it was dedicated in October 1935.

Construction of the park began in 1935 with Works Progress Administration funding. The field itself is now maintained as a baseball diamond but historically it was used for football games, horse shows, and other events as well. The oldest buildings are a stone-fronted entranceway of medieval character and a grandstand with concrete seating and a steel canopy, both buildings designed by local engineer Edgar H. Millirons. Other contributing resources include a poured concrete and cinder-block dugout and a concrete- and cinder-block concession stand. Noncontributing resources include a field house and maintenance building and restrooms beyond center field.

The field is illuminated by modern light towers and it is enclosed inside a ca. 1950 fence of corrugated metal panels supported by wooden poles and dimensional lumber uprights, both metal and wood painted green. A tall concrete retaining wall constructed in the 1980s holds up the hillside at right field. The nomination boundaries include a parking lot on the north side of the entranceway that is likely a recent upgrade of an original 1930s parking area. Modern baseball-related buildings and seating stand just outside the nomination boundaries to the south.

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Calfee Athletic Field
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Description (continued)

Inventory

1. Ball field. 1935. Contributing site.
2. Entranceway. 1935; ca. 1950. Contributing building.
3. Grandstand. 1936. Contributing structure.
4. Dugout. Ca. 1940; ca. 1975. Contributing building.
5. Concession Stand. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
6. Field House and Maintenance Building. 1947 and later. Noncontributing building.
7. Restrooms. Ca. 1980. Noncontributing building.

Individual Resource Descriptions

1. Ball field. 1935. Contributing site.

Baseball diamond of dirt and turf with home base located at the southwest corner. During the period of significance the ball field was reconfigured several times a year to accommodate a variety of sporting events and entertainments. Its more exclusive use for baseball dates to the 1970s.

2. Entranceway. 1935; ca. 1950. Contributing building.

One-story building measuring fifty-one by eighteen feet of randomly coursed sandstone construction with a corrugated-metal-sheathed shed roof. The three-part form of the building consists of an archway screen in a center indentation flanked by two ticket offices. The roof is hidden behind a parapet with castellation formed by a jagged row of sandstone blocks that are lighter in color than the stonework of the walls. The center screen has two archways linked by a cast-stone band bearing the date "1935" below another cast-stone band inscribed "Pulaski Athletic Field" between Tudor rose ornaments. The arches have iron strapwork gates that evoke medieval portcullises. Similar grilles cover arched ticket office windows. Other features include stone piers at the corners of the building and a stone buttress-like element at the midpoint of the center screen; a ca. 1950 addition of cinder-block construction formerly used as an umpire's room, with blocks forming a castellated effect along the top of the parapet; and contemporaneous cinder-block infilling of the rear elevations of the two enclosed elements (replacing original wooden infill) with steel doors. Near the building are sandstone retaining walls and a gutter that likely date to 1935.

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**Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

3. Grandstand. 1936. Contributing structure.

Canopied grandstand measuring 210 by thirty-one feet built into the hillside on the west side of the field. It features a poured concrete seat bank divided by four sets of steps and supplemented by recent bench seats made from wood boards. The grandstand originally provided seating for 1,250 spectators. A seam and change of color in the concrete of the north end of the seat bank suggests an addition or replacement, and additional modern concrete-work extends the seat bank northward beyond the canopy to the concession stand. The shed-roofed canopy has supports, roof purlins, and roof stringers fabricated out of steel I-beams with steel angle bars used as struts at the tops of the supports. The roof is constructed of dimensional lumber rafters reinforced with metal tie rods and supporting wood decking and corrugated metal cladding. In the 1940s and 1950s the grandstand roof apparently had a built-up asphalt surface, and until about 1988 two small press boxes (not original but of unknown date) perched on the front edge of roof. At one point in the 1960s or 1970s seats from Philadelphia's Connie Mack field were installed in the stands and later removed.

4. Dugout. Ca. 1940; ca. 1975. Contributing building.

The dugout has a characteristic partially below-grade linear form aligned with the edge of the diamond near home base, with an open front. Both the original south end and a 1970s extension are constructed of cinder block under a poured concrete shed roof with a beveled front edge. The original section has a concrete bench seat, metal pole supports, and modern plywood shelving. The extension has more slender metal pole supports. Both sections have modern wood board flooring.

5. Concession Stand. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

Utilitarian one-story building of poured concrete and concrete- and cinder-block construction with a flat poured concrete roof with a beveled lip and edged with a metal railing. Three small windows with wooden shutters open onto an exterior wooden counter supported by metal brackets. The north end of the building is set back and may represent an addition; it formerly served as a storage room.

6. Field House and Maintenance Building. 1947 and later. Noncontributing building.

Utilitarian one-story building built in phases proceeding from west to east. The west end units

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Calfee Athletic Field
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Description (continued)

formerly served as home and visitor dressing rooms and a manager's office; these small cinder-block buildings appear to have been built in 1947 by the Virginia Block Company of Pulaski. They have metal-sheathed shed roofs with parapets, and corrugated metal fencing across their rear (north) elevations. About 1970 a new dressing room of cinder-block construction was added to the east of the earlier buildings; it has some vinyl siding, high windows, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. In the 1990s the final addition was made to the east end: an open-fronted tractor garage and materials storage building constructed of treated lumber with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. Painted on the north elevation of the building is "Welcome to Calfee Park" and the logo of the Pulaski Rangers.

7. Restrooms. 1970s. Noncontributing building.

Utilitarian one-story cinder-block building with an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

Integrity Statement

Calfee Athletic Park possesses good integrity from the period of significance, 1935 to 1950. The principal historic features--field, entranceway, grandstand, and dugout--remain in place, and there are many secondary features such as fencing and concrete walkways dating to the historic period. Most modernizations within the nomination boundaries are confined to the service area along the north edge of the park. The residential neighborhoods and wooded mountainsides that surround the park have much the character they possessed during the period of significance. The principal modern intrusions are the steel light towers around the perimeter of the field, service buildings behind center field, and the 1998-99 clubhouse and other improvements on the south side of the field. These latter improvements are located outside but immediately adjacent to the nomination boundaries. They were made to place the park in compliance with modern baseball regulations, thus ensuring Calfee Athletic Field's continued use for minor-league baseball.

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**Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Calfee Athletic Field has provided recreational facilities to Pulaski, Virginia since it opened in the midst of the Great Depression. Tucked into a natural amphitheater on the mountainside above the town, the park was built with funding from the Works Progress Administration and dedicated to Pulaski Mayor Ernest W. Calfee in October 1935. The oldest features--a whimsical medieval stone entranceway and a concrete and steel grandstand--were designed by local engineer Edgar H. Millirons. The park was used for horse shows, carnivals, high school football, and other entertainments, but it is best remembered as the home field of the Pulaski Counts, a minor-league team in the Appalachian League, and it now plays host to the Pulaski Rangers, which is a farm team for the Texas Rangers. Improvements have been made on an ongoing basis since 1935, yet Calfee Athletic Field retains its historic charm as a small-town ball park.

Applicable Criteria

Calfee Athletic Field is eligible under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation as Pulaski, Virginia's historic venue for minor-league baseball, high school sports, and other entertainments, making it a focus of the social life of the community. The period of significance extends from 1935, the year work on the field commenced, until 1950, embracing the early years of operation and the peak years of fame for the hometown minor-league team, the Pulaski Counts. Calfee Athletic Field is eligible at the local level of significance. Information in support of designation appears throughout the historic context.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these was J. David Hart, Parks and Recreation Director for the Town of Pulaski, the project sponsor and author of the Preliminary Information Form that formed the basis for the nomination. Others who provided assistance included Ed Sutphin and John J. Hawley of the Town of Pulaski, former Parks and Recreation Director Ned Bane, Gene Morris with the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, and June Ellis, John Kern, Anne Stuart, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historic Context

American baseball is a Northern invention. The game was virtually unknown in the South before the Civil War, although a few intrepid non-Southerners attempted to form teams in Richmond and elsewhere during the 1850s. The war itself introduced Southerners to the sport. Games were organized between Union and Confederate soldiers during lulls in the fighting, and the sport was demonstrated by Union prisoners in Confederate prison camps and taught to rebel prisoners in the Northern camps. After the war, baseball was avidly adopted in Southern cities like Richmond, where fifteen adult teams had formed by the autumn of 1866.¹

Baseball eventually came to the town of Pulaski, originally known as Martin's Tank, which grew up around a depot on the Virginia & Tennessee rail line. The community boomed during the railroad prosperity of the 1880s and continued to prosper in the depressed 1890s when the county seat was moved to the town. Zinc works, an iron foundry, and other industrial plants with large male workforces were established, providing fertile ground for baseball enthusiasm, and a "Pulaski baseball team" formed by 1906. Pulaski fit the mold of towns throughout the South where businessmen sponsored the game in a spirit of community boosterism and factory owners fielded teams as a way to attract and keep motivated employees. For example, Pulaski's Virginia Maid Hosiery Mill, established in 1929, fielded a team in the 1930s.²

Pulaski's prosperity continued into the early twentieth century, but hardship ensued with the Great Depression of the 1930s. According to local historian Conway Smith, thousands of Pulaski County inhabitants faced "stark hunger" during the worst of the crisis. The community's outlook began to improve with the implementation of New Deal policies in 1933, and in September of that year Pulaski's citizenry staged a "recovery parade" in the downtown. With the creation of the Public Works Administration and, in 1935, the Works Progress Administration, Pulaski Mayor Ernest W. Calfee sought funding for make-work projects that would result in lasting improvements to the town's infrastructure. PWA funds were being spent on bridge construction by May 1934, and by September the town had decided to construct an athletic field on Dora

¹ Daniel, "Good Playing and Gentlemanly Bearing," 118.

² Worsham et al, *Pulaski County Heritage Conservation Study*, 54-57; Smith, *Land That Is Pulaski County*, 373; DiMeglio, "Baseball," 1211; and Giles and Pezzoni, "Historic Context," 14-15.

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Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Highway (SR 699). This was the genesis of Calfee Athletic Field, soon relocated to a site off of Lee Highway (US 11; Washington Avenue) at the southern approach to town.³

Town of Pulaski parks department labor payrolls trace construction activity at the ball park during the spring and summer of 1935. In early October blasting for an access road was underway, work that resulted in the accidental death of a cow belonging to a Mr. James Josey. At the same October 8 town council meeting during which Mr. Josey received compensation for his cow, Mrs. C. A. Duncan of the Woman's Club of Pulaski presented a petition to name the \$25,000 ball park in honor of Mayor Calfee for his "untiring efforts" on behalf of the project. The athletic field's dedication three days later coincided with the first event to be held there, a horse show, and a baseball game between the Pulaski Counts and a team from the neighboring community of Narrows kicked off the first full season on June 2, 1936 (the home team won). The Counts, at first a semi-professional team in the Blue Ridge League, were christened after the county's namesake, Revolutionary War hero Count Casimir Pulaski. The local *Southwest Times* reported on the game and commented on the galvanizing effect of the new park. "Not since the olden days has baseball fever been more rampant," it concluded.⁴

A May 11, 1936 rotogravure section of the *Southwest Times* depicts Calfee Athletic Field during its first year of existence. The stone entranceway was in place, with x-braced wooden doors in a high wooden fence next to it. To the south extended a bank of temporary wooden seats with a 1,200-spectator capacity erected for the October 1935 horse show. More wooden seats were added in early 1936, and in April the town announced that it would begin construction on the present grandstand, which was probably completed by the beginning of June. The rotogravure photograph shows a row of wooden light poles (the sawed-off bases of which dot the grounds today) and, outside the southern fence line, a long gabled structure that probably served as a horse stable (long since taken down). By early June 1936 a scoreboard had been donated to the

³ Smith, *Land That Is Pulaski County*, 443, 451-455; Pulaski Council Minutes, May 8 and September 4, 1934.

⁴ Pulaski Council Minutes, October 8, 1935; Hart, "Calfee Athletic Field;" *Roanoke Times*, October 10 and 11, 1935; and *Southwest Times*, April 10 and June 1 and 3, 1936. The ball park originally bore the name "Pulaski Athletic Field," the inscription that appears on the front of the entranceway. Also important in the construction of the athletic field was local WPA official G. G. Painter.

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Calfee Athletic Field
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Statement of Significance (continued)

park by the Coca Cola Company and a press box had been erected.⁵

Designs for the entranceway and grandstand were prepared by Pulaski resident Edgar Hampton Millirons (1896-1966). Millirons came to the area in the early 1930s when the Smyth County gypsum mine where he had worked as a mining engineer closed. Described as a "self-made engineer" who picked up engineering basics at an Akron, Ohio night school, Millirons undertook several projects for Pulaski Director of Public Works A. W. Gatewood. In August 1935, when Millirons prepared section and elevation drawings for the grandstand, he appears to have been associated with the Pulaski Engineering Works, Inc. (although he may simply have made his blueprints there). Millirons also designed Pulaski's Mountain Park, another 1935 WPA-funded project involving decorative stonework located a mile south of the Calfee Athletic Field on US 11. Millirons worked mainly in Pulaski County during the 1930s, but he also designed a grandstand for Pearisburg High School in neighboring Giles County.⁶

Historically and presently, baseball has received top billing at Calfee Athletic Field. The inaugural big game was to be an exhibition match between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians scheduled for April 9, 1936. The local paper anticipated the arrival of newsreel photographers and proudly announced "Pulaski's park will be flashed on screens in thousands of movie houses." Cinematic fame was not to be, however, for the game was rained out. The Pulaski Counts, the Virginia Maid team, the Pulaski High School team, and a "Highway Department team" used the field during the 1930s. In 1946 the Counts affiliated with the Appalachian League, a minor league established in 1910 and reorganized in 1937, and Pulaski rose to the top of the standings in 1947 and 1948 through the efforts of pitcher William Arrildt, batter Norman Postolese, and other gifted players. In 1947 the local paper ran short biographies of the home team players with asterisks appearing by several of the names. An asterisk, the paper pointed out, "indicates single players, girls."⁷

⁵ *Southwest Times*, March 29 and 30, April 26, May 11, June 1 and 3, and August 14, 1936; *Roanoke Times*, October 11, 1935.

⁶ David Millirons personal communication.

⁷ *Southwest Times*, March 29 and 30, 1936; Jenkins, *Appalachian League*; and Town of Pulaski files.

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Calfee Athletic Field
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Statement of Significance (continued)

The Pulaski High School football team used the field in the 1940s, as did the football team of the Christiansburg Institute, an African American secondary school located in adjoining Montgomery County. High school football use was discontinued in 1974 when the county built a high school stadium, however the Pulaski County High School Cougars baseball team continues to use the park on occasion. The horse shows of the 1930s, which drew up to 2,500 spectators and filled local hotels and homes with out-of-towners, appear to have declined in popularity during the 1940s and 1950s. There was a renewal of interest in the 1960s when Charlotte-based Dillon Brothers organized shows at the park. Several horse stalls remained at the south end of the park during this later period, but they were soon removed and the entire area devoted to parking.⁸

The park played host to numerous entertainments during the late 1940s, including carnivals, rodeos, religious services, boxing matches, band practices, home shows, and, on July 4, 1949, a "sham battle" and fireworks display staged by local veterans groups. The town continuously improved the athletic field complex to accommodate sporting events and other activities. The original section of the dugout was erected in 1940 or shortly thereafter, and in 1949 the park included a ticket box at its south end, an umpire's room, visitors' showers, and restroom facilities.⁹

A number of farm (or bush) teams associated with major league teams have used the park. The modern farm system developed after 1919 to provide a pool of talent for the major leagues. In the 1940s a Brooklyn Dodgers affiliate used the park. Other major league affiliates have included the Chicago Cubs, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Atlanta Braves, and (at present) the Texas Rangers. Well-known players who began their careers at Calfee Park include Mike Anderson, Larry Christianson, Jeff Blauser, David Justice, Javier Lopez, and Mark Wohlers. In recent years the field has witnessed a contest between arch rivals Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia that resulted in a "bench clearing brawl" as well as other, more peaceable activities that sustain the park as a community institution.¹⁰

⁸ Hart, "Calfee Athletic Field;" Ned Bane personal communication; Town of Pulaski files; and *Roanoke Times*, August 14, 1936.

⁹ Town of Pulaski files.

¹⁰ Hart, "Calfee Athletic Field;" Ward, *Baseball, An Illustrated History*, 148.

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Calfee Athletic Field
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Statement of Significance (continued)

Improvements continue to the present and include the construction of a press box in 1988 and a clubhouse and concession building, seating, and a second dugout in 1998-99 (these features are located outside the nomination boundaries). The most recent improvements were made so that the park would comply with the Professional Baseball Standards, a requirement for continued minor-league play. These upgrades have not detracted from the charm of Calfee Athletic Field, which has received mention in *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, and other magazine articles about America's historic minor-league ball parks.¹¹

¹¹ Hart, "Calfee Athletic Field;" Lamb, "A Season in the Minors;" and "The Anywhere Game," 54-55.

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Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

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**Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel embraces the northern portion of Pulaski County tax parcel 81 ((17)) 17 and is depicted on the 1:200 map that accompanies this nomination. The south boundary runs parallel to and fifteen feet south of the home base/first base line, intersecting modern seats on the west side of the ball field and a modern retaining wall on the east side.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are drawn so as to include the principal historic resources associated with Calfee Athletic Field--field, entranceway, grandstand, dugout, and concession stand--and to exclude modern improvements on the south side of the field.

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**Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.**

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Calfee Athletic Field (same for all photos)
2. Location: Pulaski Co., Va. (same for all photos)
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
4. Photo date: February 2000 (same for all photos)
5. Original negative (VDHR # 17875) archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond (same for all photos)
6. Description of view: Entranceway front (north) elevation. View looking southeast.
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. Ball field with grandstand in left distance, concession stand in center distance, and entranceway in right distance. View looking northeast.
3. 6. Ball field with entranceway in left distance maintenance area in middle distance. View looking north.
4. 6. Grandstand with modern buildings outside nomination boundaries beyond. View looking south.

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Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

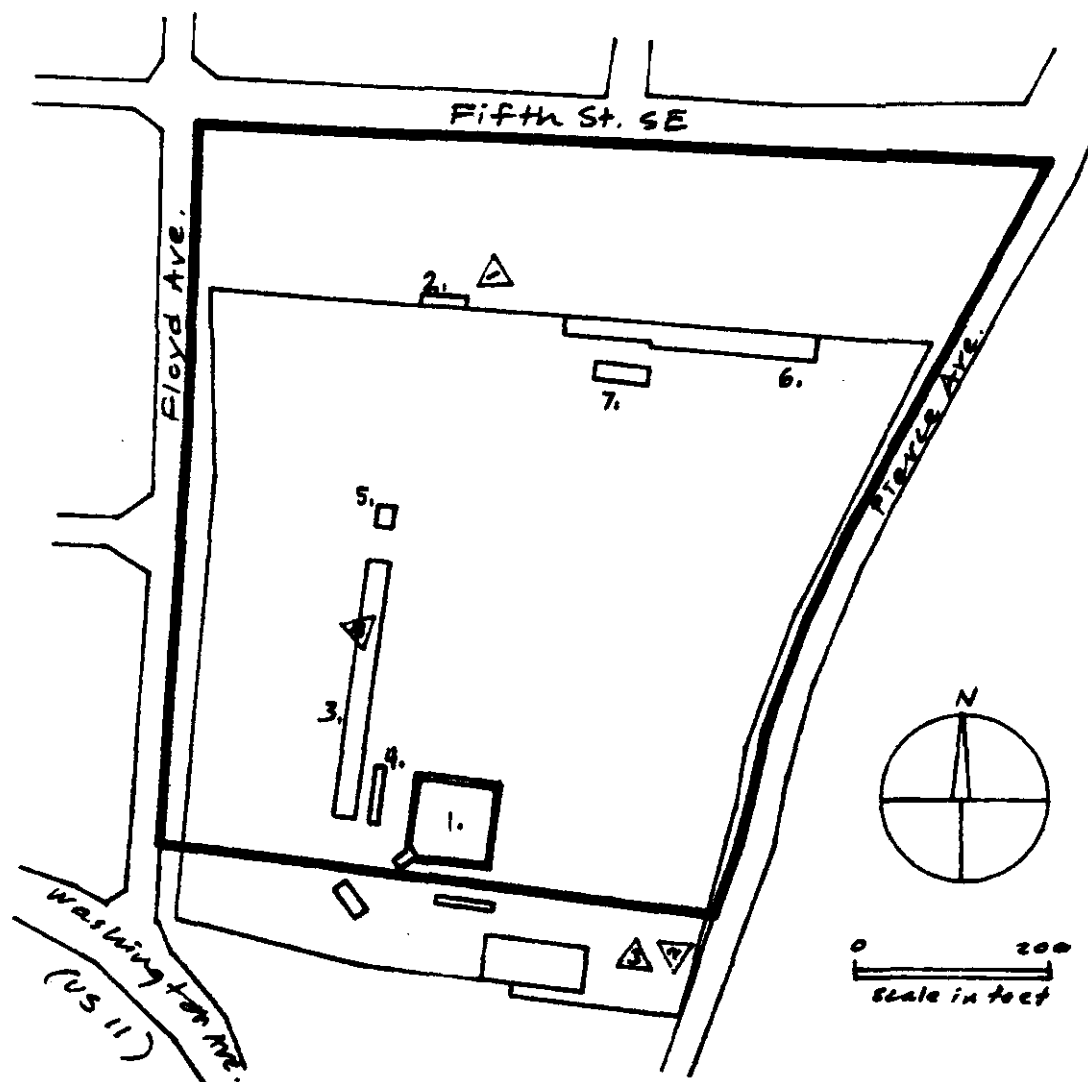
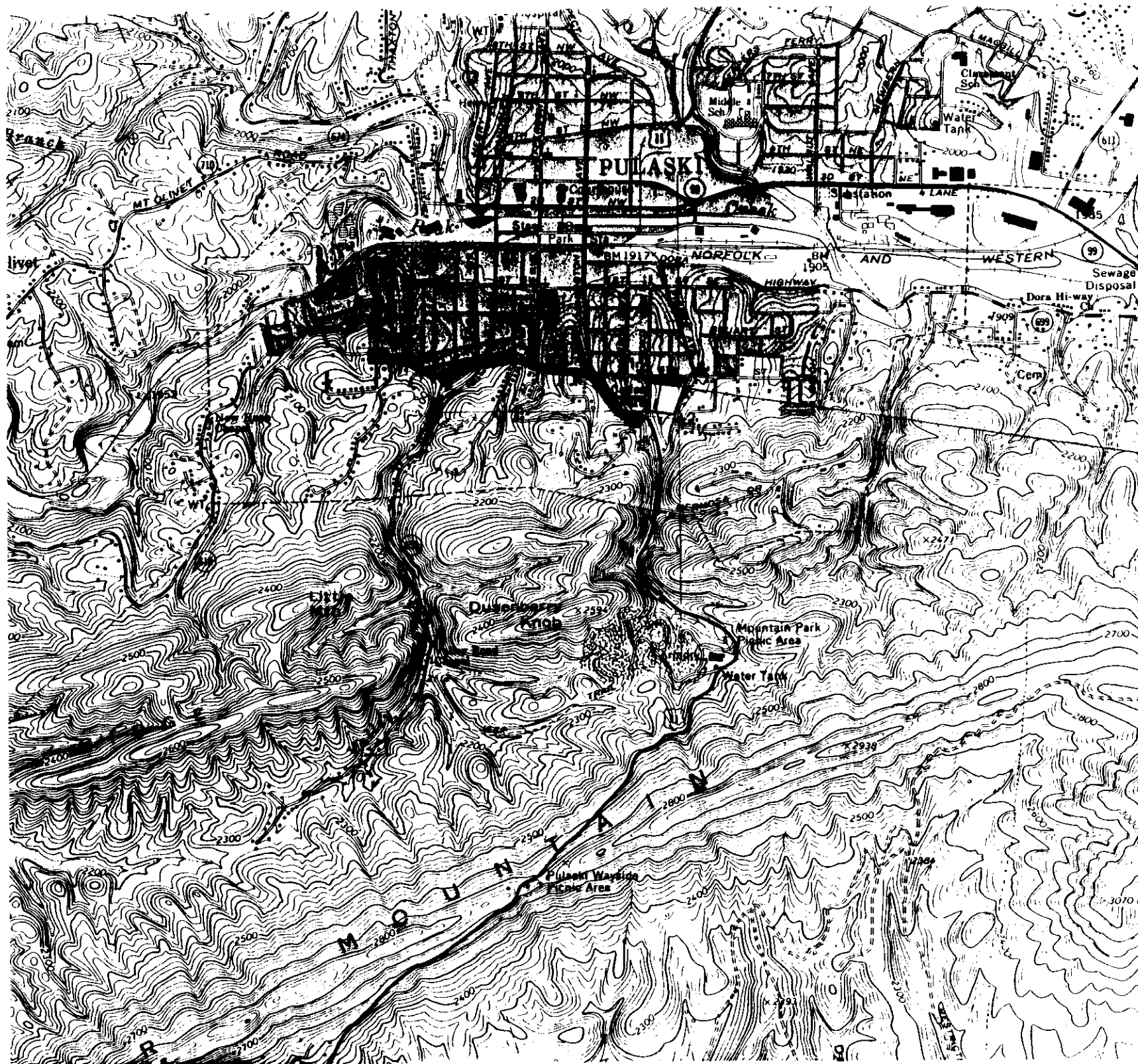


Exhibit A: Calfee Athletic Field nominated parcel. 1:200 map drawn from Town of Pulaski "Calfee Park Proposed Layout" (1998) and Pulaski County Tax Map 81 ((17)). Heavy line indicates boundaries. Triangular markers indicate number and direction of view of photographs. Resources keyed by number to inventory.



4100

2'30"

4099

Calfee Athletic Field
Pulaski Co., Va.

UTM ref.s (zone 17):
 1. E519830 N4099200
 2. E520070 N4099180
 3. E520020 N4098960
 40984. E519820 N4098760

4097

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